



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District

# Yankee Engineer



**Extraordinary!**  
**New England District Year in Review 2007**





*Left: Work at New Bedford Superfund project. Above: Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day. Below: Base Operations facility at Westover Air Reserve Base.*



## A note from the Editor: In a word -- Extraordinary!

The year 2007 was an extraordinary one for the New England District. We achieved many accomplishments and have a lot to be proud of from project successes to personal and professional achievements. Success stories abound in every area of the District's mission and new achievements are being realized every day. The following pages will highlight just a sampling of the good work that the New England District Team has achieved over the past year.

*- Ann Marie R. Harvie, Editor, Yankee Engineer*

*Cover photo: After being damaged in severe winter weather, the flag pole on top of the Cape Cod Canal Railroad Bridge was hoisted back up and replanted, May 17. Randy Mello, Ryan Jones and Richard Paterson wave from the top of the bridge as they replant the flag pole. Photo by Kevin Burke.*



*Above: Thermal test conducted inside the new Thermal Test Facility at Natick Laboratories.*

## The year of... Project Successes

The New England District team cut ribbons on many projects this year. The Border Patrol Stations in Calias and Jackman, Maine, were completed on time and turned over to Homeland Security officials for occupation, despite many weather related and geographical challenges.

Construction on the Base Operations Facility at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee, Mass., was completed in September. The \$4 million facility houses the 439th Operation Group's Airfield Operations and Command Post functions. The District Team will continue to do work for Westover with a design build contract for \$31.4 million for the Westover Armed Forces Reserve Center that is scheduled

for completion in summer 2009.

The Team also accomplished work for its neighbors at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Mass. Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite, NAD Commander, proudly cut the ribbon on the long-awaited, state-of-the-art Fitness Center in September. The new facility will help servicemembers stay in top physical condition. In November, District officials turned over the completed Base Civil Engineering Heavy Repair Facility for occupancy.

The New England District Team also saw great successes in its support to the

Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR) on Cape Cod. An award was made in June to the ECC TERC for the construction of a rapid response action (RRA) at the J1S Range. The facility went online in October and is expected to operate for two years. In September, a third performance based contract was awarded for the construction of a permanent RRA at the J2 Range. The facility is expected to come on line in September 2008 and pump for 11 years. The flow rate at the J3 Range RRA was increased in November. The increase of the flow rate (optimization) is equivalent to implementing the final action. The Team also successfully prepared a "Justification and Approval For a Sole Source Acquisition" of the STAPP Environmental Bullet Center for two additional small arms ranges.

The District Team turned over a brand new \$5.1 million Thermal Test Facility to Natick Laboratories in Natick, Mass., for Beneficial Occupancy in December. The facility is equipped with a materials analysis lab, combustion monitoring and analysis lab, flammability testing/thermal barrier lab and propane test cell. Researchers at Natick will use the facility to test a wide variety of items to include uniforms, sleeping bags, tents, and firefighting gear.





*Contractors remove plug at the Town Pond Restoration Project.*

## The year of... Environmental Program Successes

The District's environmental program and support of the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund Program has also enjoyed extraordinary accomplishments this year.

The New England District team implemented a project to restore degraded coastal wetlands at the mouth of Allin's Cove in Barrington, R.I., and was completed in January. The restoration project removed unwanted phragmites and restored approximately four acres of salt marsh to the cove. The project also realigned the inlet channel to the south and provided for a north and south sand spit with sand excavated

at the site.

A dredged material disposal site is being transformed into a high value salt marsh and salt pond habitat when tidal water flowed into the basin of the \$4 million Town Pond Restoration Project in Portsmouth, N.H. When the final 50-foot plug was removed from the new channel at Mount Hope Bay in October, tidal water began flooding into the basin of the project. It was the first incoming tide the pond had experience in nearly 60 years. Over time, Town Pond will resemble its historic conditions from the 1930's and will provide habitat for coastal fish and wildlife, restoring the productivity and ecological value to the area.

The clean up of the largest, most challenging hazardous waste sites in the nation – the New Bedford Superfund Site in New Bedford, Mass. – continues to go well. In 2007, the New England District team removed over 20,000 cubic yards of contaminated material from the site.



*Cocheco River dredging.*

## The year of... **Dredging Program Successes**

The New England District also successfully completed many dredging operations this year. District contractors removed about 2,000 cubic yards of rock and 14,000 cubic yards of sediment from the Cocheco River Federal Channel in Dover, New Hampshire.

Approximately 313,151 cubic yards of sediment was removed from the Fore River Channel in Weymouth, Mass., in March to improve vessel passage. The project provides for a 35-foot channel extending from deep water in Nantasket Roads through Hingham Bay and up the Weymouth Fore

River to about 3,000 feet upstream of the Fore River Bridge.

At the request of the New England District team, the Corps vessel CURRITUCK visited Massachusetts waters and removed 40,000 cubic yards of sand from the 8-foot deep, 100-foot wide entrance channel of Aunt Lydia's Cove in Chatham, Mass., this past July.

And the District team, along with five other government agencies, agreed to formally administer a Regional Dredging Team for the Long Island Sound Dredged Materials Management to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's rulemaking that designated open-water dredged material disposal sites in Central Long Island Sound and Western Long Island Sound. The newly formed team will assist dredging proponents in considering and evaluating various management operations for their dredged material as well as develop a dredged material management plan for Long Island Sound.





*Lincoln New Hampshire Local Protection Project.*

The year of...

## Keeping New England safe

### *Reservoir Regulation*

The New England Region experienced one major Nor'easter in April. The storm, which caused a four-day flood event from April 15-18 caused significant flooding within the Merrimack River Basin and around the Southern New England Coastal Areas.

The flood storage capacities at the dams in the District's Naugatuck, Blackstone, and Thames River basins were between 25 to 45 percent, while storage capacities at the dams in the Connecticut and Merrimack River Basins were 25 to 70 percent full. Careful monitoring and water releases prevented serious property loss. In total, the New England District dams saved citizens \$528 million in damages from the storm.

Damaging tides caused the Stamford Hurricane Barrier

in Stamford, Conn., to operate 18 times, preventing \$815,000 in damages and the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier in New Bedford, Mass., to operate on 16 occasions, saving \$902,000.

Throughout the year, the New England District's Reservoir Regulation Staff has worked hard to keep the citizens of New England safe. In total, The New England District Water Control Management System prevented over \$4.6 billion in damages cumulative through Fiscal Year 07.

### *Levees*

The devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita brought the issue of levee safety to the forefront of public debate, and the findings of subsequent Corps investigations into the performance of the flood damage reduction system clearly point to a need for a periodic, comprehensive and risk informed approach to levee safety.

Challenges presented themselves in 2007 with 10 Levees of Concern at some of the Local Protection Projects in New England. Not to turn away from a challenge, the District team continues its ongoing inspections program of federally-constructed flood protection projects and is supporting local project owners/sponsors in their efforts to correct deficiencies.





*Above: Tom Chamberland in Louisiana. Inset: Richalie Griffith in Afghanistan.*

## The year of... Supporting the War Against Terror and Disaster Recovery

New England District volunteers have deployed or are still deployed overseas with more team members volunteering every day. Richalie Griffith traveled to Afghanistan this year as a project engineer to help rebuild the country.

New England District team members also volunteered to assist in the continued cleanup of the Gulf Region as well as other hurricane initiatives. For example, Tom Chamberland,

Park Ranger at Westville Lake, lent his professional expertise as an arborist to the people of New Orleans, to determine which trees damaged during Hurricane Katrina could be saved and which had to be removed.

In addition to Griffith and Chamberland, the following team members deployed to assist in hurricane recovery efforts or to assist in the War Against Terror in 2007:

**Jack Connolly**

**Frank Fedele**

**Gladys Leone**

**Duban Montoya**

**John Murner**

**Jeff Teller**





*Above: Earth Day at West Thompson Lake. Above left: Fresh Air Fund event. Above right: Wee Fun Festival.*

## The year of... Events in the Field

New England District team members in the field continue to be our ambassadors to the public. During 2007, they were busy with extensive outreach and interpretative programs as well as getting volunteers excited about environmental stewardship. The Basins' junior ranger programs were successful, with thousands of New England children participating and graduating at the end of the summer.

The West Thompson Lake and the Cape Cod Canal teams held Earth Day events at their facilities in April. Nearly 300 volunteers worked on various improvement and cleaning projects, totaling almost \$14,000 in savings to the government.

About 25 volunteers rolled up their sleeves alongside the

Westville Lake team to perform cleanup projects during Westville Lake's April Trail Day event.

Hop Brook Lake hosted its annual All-American Fishing Derby, giving prizes out to young anglers in various categories. Hop Brook also hosted a successful Geocaching/Scavenger hunt to inspire participants to experience the joys of the great outdoors. Both events were held in May.

The Cape Cod Canal team partnered with federal, state, and local agencies to host the annual Cape Cod Canal Boating and Water Safety Day in May. In July, Canal employees, along with Corps mascot Buckeye Beaver, touted water safety during the Bourne, Mass., Independence Day parade.

Elm Brook Park team members hosted hundreds of New England District employees and their families during the Founder's Day Ceremony and Picnic in June. Kayak races and sandcastle competitions highlighted the outdoor activities





*Above: March of Dimes walk.*

following the official awards presentations.

The Buffumville Lake team reached out to over 280 future environmental stewards and caregivers with safety messages during its annual Wee Fun Festival in June. The event taught children how to be safe in a fun way as well as how to enjoy and protect the nation's natural resources.

Over 400 volunteers gathered at Westville Lake, Buffumville Lake, and West Hill Dam to celebrate National Public Lands Day in September by working on projects and making improvements to the areas. The volunteers' donated labor at the Corps' projects added up to almost \$27,000 in savings to the federal government.

Edward MacDowell Lake and local partners hosted an

improvement event at the facility in September that resulted in volunteers contributing over \$4,300 in labor.

Inner city kids visited Buffumville Lake in July and West Hill Dam in September to get a break from concrete buildings and experience nature at its finest. For many, it was their first time away from the city. Some children were so impressed by their experiences, they returned to participate in other events at the sites.

Team members at Tully Lake, in partnership with state and local stakeholders held their first triathlon in October. Over 65 athletes participated in the event, which consisted of a 5-mile canoe/kayak paddle, a 4.5 mile cross-country run and a 7.5 mile mountain bike ride.





*The GE Housatonic River Superfund Project.*

The year of...

## Recognition for Project excellence

Several of New England District's challenging projects were recognized for excellence from private associations in 2007.

The General Electric Housatonic River Superfund Project in Pittsfield, Mass., received the 2007 Build America Award from the Associated General Contractors of America. The award honors excellence in the construction industry and projects that exhibit the best in project management, innova-

tion in construction techniques and sensitivity to the environment. The river cleanup was one of the largest and most complex of its kind to be implemented in New England. The project was completed a year and a half ahead of schedule, saving several million dollars.

The Jackman and Calais, Maine, Border Patrol Stations received the Public Project of the Year Award from the New England Chapter of the Construction Management Association of America. The projects were extraordinary due to the skill of the project team in addressing the challenges of specialized construction systems, scope changes and extreme weather conditions while maintaining a high level of construction safety, meeting an aggressive schedule and successfully managing project costs.





*Master Yu DeAn (right) performs the Mulan Sword dance during the Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Program.*

## The year of... Equal Employment Opportunity Programs

The New England District's Equal Employment Opportunity Office and Special Emphasis Programs worked hard in 2007 to celebrate and honor cultural diversity with interesting and informative programs.

Ryan McNabb, lead ranger at the Boston African American National Historic site in Boston, Mass., served as keynote speaker during the District's Black History Month observance in February.

McNabb discussed the city of Boston and Commonwealth of Massachusetts' role in the success of the Underground Railroad and the fight against slavery in 19th Century America.

Over 30 children participated in the District's "Take

Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day," in April. The children spent the day learning about some of the many professions at the District as well as getting some fun lessons in engineering and science.

Tai Chi instructor and Master Yu DeAn performed the 24-step Tai Chi Chuan, the Mulan Sword Dance and the Tai Chi Chuan Kung-Fu Fan Dance for a standing room only audience during the Asian American/Pacific Islander Month observance in June. Audience members were invited by the presenter to try the intricate 24-step exercise.

Hispanic cuisine highlighted an outdoor fiesta held to observe Hispanic Heritage Month in September. Participants were treated to good food prepared by co-workers, festive decorations, and a display of Hispanic cultural items and Hispanic music.

Tobias Vanderhoop, member of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) rounded out the EEO/Special Emphasis Program presentations by reciting some Native American folklore, singing Native American Honor Songs, and taking questions regarding Native American culture during the November presentation.





*Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson (right) meets with interested parties at the Circ-Williston Public Hearing.*

The year of...

## Regulatory

Regulatory Division continued to safeguard the environment in New England in 2007

by handling thousands of permit actions this year.

The Regulatory team also participated in several public hearings on permit applications.

Regulatory team members participated in a joint public hearing on Sept. 12 in Derry, N.H., on the proposed

construction of the New Exit 4A, connecting easterly from I-93 in Derry and Londonderry.

A joint public hearing involving Regulatory staff took place in October in Essex Junction and Williston, Vermont on the proposed Circ-Williston Highway Improvement Project.

### Breakdown of Regulatory Division Permit Actions

- Issued 5 Letters of Permission (LOPs)
- Issued 74 Standard Permits (SPs)
- Decided 372 were No Permit Required
- Finalized 32 Unauthorized actions
- Issued 190 Permit Modifications
- Issued 2,279 General Permits

Regulatory's role in the permitting process of the proposed Cape Wind project was documented in a book entitled, "Cape Wind; Money, Celebrity, Politics, and the Battle for America's Energy Future," which was published in May. The Cape Wind project proposed to place a Wind Farm in federal waters situated between Hyannis, Mass., on the mainland and Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Islands.





*Susan Mehigan holds up one of her gifts during her retirement lunch. Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson reads Bill Holtham's retirement certificate as Bill's wife, Sue Holtham, looks on.*

## The year of...

# Our People

### Retirements

New England District saw its senior workforce decline in numbers slightly when some of them decided to join the retirement community. Together, they represent 363 years of service to the nation, but individually they are:

Several team members retired in January. Bob Batt, Real Estate, retired after 36 years of federal service. Fran Donovan, Cape Cod Canal, retired with 38 years of service. Carol Husselbee joined the retirement community after 21 years of service.

Susan Mehigan, Regulatory, retired in February with 27 years of service.

Marie Pinede, Audit, retired in March with 49 years of service.

Bill Holtham, Project Management, retired in May with 37 years of service.

Mike Remy, Engineering/Planning, retired in July with over 30 years of service.

Paula Morin retired with 18 years of service and Ray Cottengaim retired with 28 years of service. Both retired from Real Estate in August. John Burke, Construction/Operations, also retired in August with 30 years of service.

Mark Geib, Engineering/Planning, retired in October with 32 years of service.

Juan Reyes, Logistics, retired in December with 17 years of service.

### WE Committee Awards

The Work Environment Committee awarded Employee/Team of the Month honors. The awardees, who were nominated by their peers and are cited for excellence in the

work they performed, are as follows:

### Employees of the Month

**Steven Patchkofsky, CON/OPS – January**

**David Margolis, Project Management - March**

**Scott Flanagan, Engineering/Planning – May**

**Dennis Long, RMO – June**

**Jennifer Flanagan, Engineering/Planning – July**

**Ellen Iorio, Engineering/Planning – September**

**Erik Matthews, Engineering/Planning – October**

**Leslie Lovick, HRO – November**

**Norman Krause, Contracting – December**

(No employees of the month were named in February, April, or August)

### Teams of the Quarter

**The Stamford Dewatering Team** - Diana Errico-Topolski, Chris Cogley, Marci Montrose, Brett Markure, Reese Piper, Steve Patchkofsky, Christopher Way, John Winkleman, Sheila Harvey and John Kedzierski.

**MMR Team** - Gina Kaso, David Margolis, Jim Doucakis, Thom Davidson, George Claflin, Mark Koenig, Maj. Steve Lefebvre, Larry Cain, Mike Kulbersh, Ian Osgerby, Jay Ehret, Scott Greene, John MacPherson, Ralph Tuner, Greg Pierce, Darrin Smith, Don Wood and Matt Walsh.

**2007 Take Your Daughters/Sons to Work Day Team** - Heather Sullivan, Jerry Nunziato, Viola Bramel, Paul Young, Beverly Lawrence, Sheila Harvey, Tim Russell, Jamie Kordack, Alex Garneau, Mark Anderson, Karen Umbrell, and John Kedzierski.

**The Marine Operations Section of the Cape Cod Canal Project Office** - Don Bartolome, Robert Blackwell, James Deal, Joseph DeBoer, Christopher DeMello, Donald Fillman, Daniel Guiney, Ryan Jones, Gerald Joyner, William Kane, Paul Lyman, Roger Mathurin, John McCartin, Randal Mello, Joseph Moyer, John Murner, Jack Olsen and Tyler Spofford.





*Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre gets his new rank during his promotion ceremony.*

## The year of... Individual excellence

An agency is only as effective as its people. In 2007, individual member of the District Team received honors, both official and unofficial, that only strengthen New England District's reputation of having top, quality people.

Scott Acone, George Claflin, Dave Goodrich, Robert Govero, John Haluchak, Paul Howard, Maryellen Iorio, Phillip Nimeskern, Tim Dugan and Richard Roach all received certificates of appreciation for outstanding contribution to the Louisiana Recovery Field Office mission in support of response and recovery efforts for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Christopher Caisse, Randal Lecuyer and Jason Tremblay

received Achievement Medals for Civilian Service and Jo-Ann Dawber received a Commander's Award for Civilian service for their support of Task Force Hope – Mississippi Hurricane Katrina Recovery Operations.

Ruth Ann Brien received a certificate of appreciation for Patriotic Civilian Service for volunteering her time in Regulatory Division since January 2006 as an Environmental Specialist in the Policy Analysis and Technical Support Branch.

Ian Osgerby received a Coin of Excellence from the Pacific Ocean Division for his technical support of the high profile Fuel Recovery Project at Five Closure Installations in Korea from March 2006 to February 2007.

Matthew Walsh received a certificate of appreciation from the North Atlantic Division for his work in the initialization, development and implementation of a Regional Enterprise Geographical System.

Jennifer Rockett, Park Ranger at Franklin Falls and





*Above: Keith Beecher received the ARC Legends Award. Right above: Joan Gardner was inducted into the Matignon High School Hall of Fame. Right below: Jennifer Rocket received the District's Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence.*

Blackwater Dams received New England District's Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence for 2007. The award acknowledges an individual who has done exceptional work in the interpretive series profession.

Keith Beecher, Park Manager at East Brimfield Lake/Westville Lake/Conant Brook Dam was named the winner of the 2007 American Recreation Coalition's Legends Award, which is presented annually to recognize an outstanding federal employee from each major recreation-related federal agency for his or her significant contributions to enhance outdoor recreation resources, facilities and experience on the nation's public lands.

Todd Randall was named the District's 2007 Planner of the Year in June. He received the honor for his work on the formulation and evaluation of Section 206, Section 1135 restoration projects, improvement dredging, O&M dredging and technical assistance on an EPA Superfund Project.

Christine Godfrey was the District's 2007 Supervisor of the Year in June for consistently promoting the employment

and advancement of women and minorities.

Regulatory Division's Diane Ray received a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for selfless service and leadership to the Regulatory Program I for the development and deployment of the operations and maintenance business information link Regulatory module.

Joan Gardner, Chief of Technical Services in Construction/Operations, was inducted into Matignon High School's Achievement Hall of Fame in September. The Cambridge, Mass., high school singled out Gardner for her impressive career achievements with the Corps of Engineers as well as sharing her expertise as a volunteer engineering mentor at Matignon and North Cambridge Catholic High Schools.

And finally, Maj. Stephen Lefebvre became a Lieutenant Colonel during a promotion ceremony in October. The rank of Lieutenant Colonel was first created during the American Revolutionary War when the position was held by aides to Regimental Colonels, and was sometimes known as "Lieutenant to the Colonel."



*Cape Cod Canal, Massachusetts.*

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